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Is there a clear delineation of the role of the monitors?

The Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda (HRFOR) presently has some 120 members working throughout Rwanda. These are referred to as human rights field officers and not as "monitors" because these officers have a variety of responsibilities, only one of which is to monitor the present human rights situation. In addition to the monitoring activities, human rights field officers provide support and assistance to the Government for rehabilitation of the justice system, disseminate information concerning the rights of Rwandese citizens according to international human rights and humanitarian law, participate in investigations of the genocide in all parts of the country, assist in the repatriation of internally displaced persons and refugees to their home communes, and undertake of measures to assist in building confidence among the Rwandese people.

Designated officers within each team are responsible for implementation of specific and defined elements of the mandate. For example, one officer is responsible for the transmission of comprehensive situation reports, as explained in the attached "Info-doc" entitled "Establishing a Human Rights Field Office in a Prefecture in Rwanda"; another field officer is responsible for prison visits and monitoring the conditions of detainees etc. [See also the *Note of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda (HRFOR)*, dated 29 May 1995.]

Do the monitors seem to have a clear, shared understanding of objectives? To what extent are their activities directed by the Human Rights Centre in Geneva, the headquarters in Kigali, or self-generated?

*Mandate*

The mandate of the HRFOR was established pursuant to resolution S-3/1, adopted by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on 25 May 1994, resolution 935 adopted by the Security Council on 1 July 1994 which established a commission of experts on Rwanda and the mandate of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The integrated mandate provides the field operation with four objectives: (a) to carry out investigations into violations of human rights and humanitarian law; (b) to monitor the ongoing human rights situation and through the presence of HRFOR, prevent future human rights violations; (c) to cooperate with other international agencies in re-establishing confidence and thus to facilitate the return of refugees and displaced persons and the rebuilding of civic society; and (d) to implement programmes of technical cooperation in the field of human rights, particularly in the areas of the administration of justice and of human rights education.

*Training*

In the early stages of the Operation, the High Commissioner recognized

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the need for the comprehensive training of all human rights field officers. While it was true that, initially, due to the speed with which the Operation had to be established, human rights field officers did not receive such training before their deployment, this problem has been resolved. Since December 1994, human rights field officers have received comprehensive and extensive training on all aspects of the field operation. This training includes lectures and seminars in either Geneva or Brussels (depending on whether the field officers are recruited by the Centre for Human Rights, UNV or the European Union), followed by four to six days of training in Kigali covering *inter alia*: the history, society, culture and legal system of Rwanda; the genocide, its history and effects on society; the roots of the conflict; the scope and mandate of HRFOR; the functions and responsibilities of the field officer; the applicability of international human rights and humanitarian law to the situation in Rwanda; the role of the Special Rapporteur, the Commission of Experts and the International Tribunal for Rwanda; field technicalities; procedures for dealing with physical evidence and documentation of abuses; issues concerning refugees and internally displaced persons; issues concerning the monitoring of detainees; and transportation, communications and logistics. As a result of this training, field officers do have a clear understanding of the objectives of the Operation.

The most recent training, which lasted for seven days and which began in Brussels and was continued in Kigali, included for instance a presentation by the RPA and the prefect of Kigali, a visit to an untouched massacre site, instruction on how to undertake an interview, a session on car maintenance, cultural presentation, a detailed explanation by the UNHCR on the refugee crisis and advice on how to prepare reports.

This training programme continues to be evaluated and expanded to clarify as much as possible the objectives of the Operation in addition to the methodology employed for the achievement of its aims. As part of its ongoing functions, the Monitoring Unit of the HRFOR continuously examines and analyses developments on the ground as well as practices and, in consultation with the Chief of the HRFOR, determines and supervises methodology which is to be applied by the field teams. A proposal to create an ongoing 'in-service' training programme of human rights field officers is currently under consideration to ensure that human rights field officers continuously revise and improve their methods of work.

What are the daily activities of monitors? How do they go about the business of being the eyes and ears of the international community?

#### *Monitoring*

Human rights field officers travel extensively within the regions to which they have been assigned, working closely with civil, judicial, academic, religious, human rights and military authorities as well as Rwandese citizens in general.

Monitoring of the human rights situation is conducted on an ongoing basis. Field officers take action to remedy human rights

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violations through their work with local authorities. Where local authorities cannot or do not stop the abuses or fail to discipline those responsible, human rights field officers, under the guidance of the Chief of the Operation, raise the matter with the prefectural authorities. Where there is evidence of a consistent pattern of human rights violations, the Chief of the HRFOR raises the matter at the Ministerial level with the relevant Minister. For example, if there is evidence that the Judicial Investigator uses torture as an instrument of interrogation, the issue is raised with the Minister of Justice. In cases where a Counsellor or bourgemestre is suspected of violating the human rights of Rwandese citizens, this matter may be raised with the Minister of the Interior. Reported abuses among soldiers or officers of the Rwandese Army are taken up with the Minister of Defence. A more systematic procedure for the dialogue with the authorities has recently been proposed to the Government, consisting of a three-phased approach: (a) the holding of weekly meetings with representatives of the Government at the sub-ministerial level and the RPA. HRFOR would be represented in those meetings by the Deputy Chief, if appropriate or necessary, accompanied by the Coordinators and the Chief of the Monitoring Unit; (b) once every month the Chief HRFOR accompanied by the Deputy Chief and the two Coordinators should call on the Prime Minister and the competent Ministers to review current affairs; and (c) once every three months the Chief of the Special Procedures, or another official designated by me, will travel to Kigali to meet, together with the Chief HRFOR, the Prime Minister and all competent Ministers.

#### *Trouble Areas*

Human rights field officers closely monitor trouble areas where the situation is perceived to be deteriorating, and wherever necessary, additional teams may be deployed to the area. The presence of additional human rights field officers is designed to act as a deterrent to ongoing abuses and human rights violations. Moreover, an increased deployment of human rights field officers puts the HRFOR in better position to provide accurate, comprehensive and timely reports on the situation.

#### *Situation of Detainees*

The agreement between the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Government of Rwanda states that human rights field officers may travel anywhere in the country and interview in private all Rwandese citizens, including prisoners and detainees.

Human rights field officers identify and visit communal detention centres and large prisons. By interviewing inmates, human rights field officers can compile dossiers detailing the circumstances of the inmates' arrest and detention. They monitor their treatment in detention and where abuses have been alleged, they investigate the situation and take the appropriate steps with the authorities to redress the situation.

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*Information and Reporting*

While travelling from sector to sector with the prefectures to which they have been assigned, human rights field officers gather information on all of the above mentioned matters. The information gathered is analyzed by the Monitoring Unit, which is located in the Kigali Headquarters and a synthesis is then forwarded to the Centre for Human Rights and to the High Commissioner

This information is made available to Government delegations, interested international organizations and non-governmental organizations on a regular basis in Geneva and Kigali. The HRFOR is careful not to provide details which may endanger victims of, or witnesses to, human rights violations. All reports of HRFOR are transmitted to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Rwanda and, when it is appropriate, to concerned thematic Special Rapporteurs and to the International Tribunal for Rwanda.

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Have monitors connected in any important way with the life of the country? Do they participate in rehabilitation activities? Human rights education activities? Beyond their mere presence, what contributions are they making?

The HRFOR has made important strides in assisting the Rwandese people and Rwandese institutions build confidence, facilitate the return of refugees and displaced persons and rebuild civic society.

Human rights field officers maintain close relationships with various Government authorities throughout the country including army officers, gendarmes, judicial authorities, prison administrators, ministers, heads of ministerial cabinets as well as with other community leaders such as religious leaders, professors, and school teachers.

To take an example, in the Prefecture of Gitarama, human rights field officers travel throughout 17 communes regularly to examine medical, sanitary and nutrition conditions. They transmit this information to the appropriate UN agency or NGOs which have the mandate and the necessary resources to address these needs. In the Prefecture of Butare, where the Gendarmerie has only one truck for transporting prisoners, human rights field officers regularly identify the most overcrowded detention centres and find means of transport for these detainees. UNAMIR vehicles and on occasion, HRFOR vehicles, have been used in the past to transport prisoners from these detention centres to central prisons. Once prisoners are in official prisons they are regularly monitored by the ICRC, HRFOR and prison administrators to ensure that their fundamental rights will be respected. In Gikongoro, Kibungo, Kigali rural, Gisenyi, Cyangugu and Butare prefectures judicial authorities work closely with human rights field officers. Support and assistance is provided to facilitate the smooth operation of the administration of justice and this includes supplying the prosecutors, investigators and judges with transportation, typewriters, papers and certain other basic needs. The HRFOR cooperates with other aid agencies in the distribution of materials which are being distributed to the judicial authorities. The HRFOR has further offered to observe and report back to these aid agencies on how this equipment is being used. Civil authorities throughout the country bring cases of alleged violations of human rights to the attention of human rights field officers. UNAMIR regularly calls on human rights field officers to participate in their investigations. In particular, the HRFOR has developed a procedure for assisting people who seek protection at UNAMIR posts or other international organisations.

Human rights field officers are regularly invited to sit with the civil and military authorities at meetings, committees and special ceremonies related to their work. In almost every prefecture, human rights field officers have good relations with the commanding officer of the RPA. The Chief of the HRFOR maintains close working relations with key ministers (Foreign Affairs, Interior, Justice, Defence) and keeps the Prime Minister and President informed of all major developments and concerns of HRFOR.

The technical cooperation mandate of the HRFOR is becoming

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increasingly important. In March 1995 a comprehensive technical cooperation programme was developed, based on systematic needs assessment survey which was conducted by staff of the Technical Cooperation Unit (TCU) of the HRFOR, who identified the assistance needs in rehabilitating the justice system and rebuilding civic society, particularly in the area of the administration of justice and human rights education. The Unit also proposed specific projects to address these needs and the necessary financial resources required.

The Chief of the Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Branch of the Centre for Human Rights visited Kigali at the end of April 1995 to help strengthen the activities of HRFOR in the area of technical assistance. This led to a process of restructuring the Technical Cooperation Unit (TCU) and to focus the work on this area.

This new focus of the work of the TCU in Kigali is reflected in the following key components in the technical assistance programme of the HRFOR: Advisory services on legislation and policy-making; project of 50 legal professionals; training of lawyers and judges; human rights training for the military; human rights training for the police; human rights education and civil society; human rights training in the educational system; and, human rights training for Government Institutions

In March 1995 HRFOR participated in two seminars on women's rights in coordination with the Ministry of the Family, in the first instance for women in the Ministry in Kigali and with local NGOs and in the second instance, for women working for the Ministries throughout the country. In April 1995, a seminar was held with two members from each Ministry of the Government of Rwanda which was designed to focus on the development of seminars for civil servants through the country. The seminar was deemed a success, particularly in light of the fact that the vast majority of invitees participated. The HRFOR has successfully engaged all of those Ministries present in designing future relevant courses.

To take other examples, in Gisenyi prefecture the HRFOR led a seminar on human rights in practice for the gendarmerie. In Cyangugu, three seminars have been held with local authorities and the general public on the human rights of Rwandese citizens. In Kibungo prefecture, a course was given to UNAMIR personnel and a second seminar is presently under way for civil servants and military officials working in Kibungo. Building upon the experience gained from a recent initiative in Burundi, similar training in Rwanda is being organized following an initiative of the High Commissioner. An expert staff member from the Centre is now on mission in Rwanda to finalize the content of the programme and other arrangements with the military authorities. It is envisaged also that a staff member will be deployed to follow up an on-going programme of activities in this field. Also, a three-day seminar for local information media professionals is being planned for June.

The HRFOR has translated principal international human rights instruments into Kinyarwanda. Curricula for future training of primary, secondary and university students have been developed and HRFOR is presently working on a study with Rwandese law professors at the University of Butere on the practical implementation of customary law.

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What kind of geographical coverage is there? Are the areas of greatest need receiving priority treatment?

The HRFOR has its headquarters in Kigali, and currently has 11 field offices: 9 prefectural headquarters (Butare, Cyangugu, Gikongoro, Gisenyi, Gitarama, Kibungo, Kibuye, Kigali and Ruhengeri), two additional offices in the southwest (Rwamagana and Rilima) and one sub-office at Nyamashoke in Cyangugu Prefecture. Two extra field offices were established, one in the Kigali Rural prefecture and one in the Kibungo prefecture, because of the deteriorating situation in these areas. The headquarters of the HRFOR is located in Kigali; also located in Kigali are the Technical Cooperation Unit, the Monitoring Unit, the Legal Analysis Coordination Unit, the prison team (which coordinates HRFOR prison work with the ICRC and UN agencies), and the office of the team responsible for the prefecture of Kigali, as well as coordinators for the Special Rapporteur and the European Union.

The HRFOR regularly responds to crisis situations by augmenting its personnel in regions where the situation has deteriorated. In November 1994, when the number of people seeking protection from UNAMIR reached crisis proportions, human rights field officers from four other teams were sent to provide support. In January 1995, when a number of serious human rights problems arose in the Kibungo prefecture, additional officers were sent to support the existing HRFOR structure. In February a new field office was established which covered five communes. In early March, another field office was established in the area (Rural Kigali Prefecture) in response to the needs there. In April 1995 when the crisis in Kibeho was developing, an emergency coordination structure was established to facilitate the mobility of personnel and an additional 13 human rights field officers were sent to the Butare prefecture where they worked for two weeks under the direction of a temporary regional advisor. Their primary responsibility was to offer support to the local personnel and to monitor the movement of IDPs from the camps after their forcible closure, in the Butare and Gikongoro Prefectures.

Have logistical difficulties been resolved? What kind of coordination is there with UNAMIR and other UN agencies?

Since late October, the most severe logistical problems have been brought under control. Human rights field officers who have arrived since October, have received radios and cars upon completion of their orientation in Kigali. The majority of the human rights field officers were deployed to their posts within five days. Some office items have not yet arrived, but essential material - computers, printers, printer cartridge, paper, cars radios and office kits are readily available. The distribution of equipment is sometimes subjected to delays beyond the control of the HRFOR, such as difficulties at customs.

HRFOR works closely with UNAMIR, in particular as regards monitoring. In some prefectures, military observers and human rights field officers travel together when the latter carry out investigations.

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Moreover, there is a regular exchange of information. All field teams attend UNAMIR briefings on a daily basis throughout the country to remain apprised of the overall situation.

The HRFOR coordinates all of its educational activities with UNICEF and UNESCO. With regard to returnees (both IDPs and refugees), HRFOR works closely with UNREO and UNHCR and has established a Human Rights Cell in the Integrated Operations Centre (which coordinates the work of UN agencies). Public Information Officers from all UN Agencies meet to share information on a weekly basis. These meetings are conducted under the auspices of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, followed by a press conference intended primarily for local media, but which is open to all journalists.

How are HRFOR's relations with the GOR and RPA developing?

The HRFOR enjoys very good relations with the Ministries of the Interior, Foreign Affairs, Justice, Rehabilitation, Family and Women, Information and the Prime Ministers' Offices. Relation with the Vice President and Minister of Defence and the President of the Republic remain congenial. The HRFOR also maintains good relation with the Director of ORINFOR (Rwandese Radio and Television).

In the field, the relations between the HRFOR and the authorities differ from prefecture to prefecture and from commune to commune. In some cases, there is very close contact between prefects, bourgemestre and HRFOR personnel and in other areas the best relations are with officers in the army or at the gendarmerie. On the part of HRFOR every effort is made to establish strong relations with all authorities.

The HRFOR has taken the initiative to begin a series of workshops between high level officials from the Ministry of Defence and the HRFOR and UNHCR. The first workshop of this sort was held in March and a second will be undertaken at the end of May. At these meetings, five officers and three designated representatives from HRFOR and two from UNCHR spend up to two days discussing areas of concern, respective mandates and future cooperation. The most recent workshop focused on the expansion of this initiative throughout the prefectures.

How are the monitors faring: morale? attrition rate? suitability? training? What kind of support do they receive from the Kigali office?

The tasks undertaken by human rights field officers in Rwanda are very demanding. Human rights field officers constantly receive reports of atrocities perpetrated during the genocide. They often visit massacre sites and mass graves and regularly go to communal detention centres and prisons. Hostility against UNAMIR based on the feeling that the international community abandoned Rwanda in its hour of need, has also been directed towards human rights field officers. The security situation for HRFOR personnel around the country is occasionally volatile, which has in turn contributed to a high stress level on the part of HRFOR members.

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Another factor which has made the life of human rights field officers difficult is the inadequate support that has been given to the Operation. The High Commissioner for Human Rights launched an appeal for funding in August 1994 and received enough pledges to begin the Operation for an initial period, but there is a constant need for more funding. This has created an atmosphere of uncertainty. Furthermore, all of the staff, including the Head of the Mission, are on monthly contracts. Job insecurity causes stress and lowers the morale of the personnel and ultimately hampers the elaboration of long term strategies and budgeting.

Frustration is perhaps most evident in prefectures severely affected by human rights violations. In these prefectures, human rights field officers sometimes lose sight of the overall situation in Rwanda. However, it is often more productive to seek constructive solutions to these problems by HRFOR working directly with the Government. Given the confidential character of this process and the fact that it may take some time for the Government to bring the violations to an end, the field team may become severely demoralized.

The morale of human rights field officers in the field varies. After two or three months in the field, some human rights field officers may become frustrated and demoralized. It is however, surprising that the attrition rate is not very high, and the majority of Officers who have left the Operation cited personal reasons rather than motives connected with the HRFOR itself.

The HQ of the HRFOR supports the Field Teams to the best of their ability. All Field Teams have access to a phone and a fax and can contact the HQ whenever needed. In the past the HQ has sent extra Field Officers, faxed instructions, made interventions to specific Ministers and the Chief or Deputy Chief of the Operation have gone to the prefecture where assistance was needed in response to requests from field staff. HRFOR has established the Monitoring Unit which, is responsible for developing methodology, supervising the work the field officers, analysing incoming reports and overseeing the day to day activities of the human rights field officers.

Please see above on training.

What sense is there of the impact of the programme? Is the presence of monitors a significant factor affecting the actions and decisions of GOR, RPA and potential returnees?

The HRFOR has a far-reaching and serious impact on the human situation in Rwanda. The Operation was established following an agreement with the Government of Rwanda and the High Commissioner and the Centre for Human Rights. The HRFOR has a strong line of communication with the relevant ministries of the Government and some Ministers have requested that the number of human rights field officers be increased to 300. Reports made by the Operation to the Government are routinely accorded serious attention. As mentioned above, local

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Government officials, Prefects, Bourgemestres, State Prosecutors, Prison Administrators and RPA Officers in many communes work very closely with human rights field officers and appreciate their presence in the Prefecture. There is no doubt that the "mere" presence of the human rights field officers in the field, travelling daily from sector to sector, helps to ensure that fewer acts of revenge are committed by individuals. Because human rights field officers are available to look into allegations brought to their attention, this influences how local authorities address these problems. In short, the presence of human rights field officers has a certain deterrent effect.

The impact that the Operation has on returnees is very difficult to evaluate. Before the IDP camps in the Gikongoro prefecture were forcibly closed, human rights field officers regularly informed people in these camps about the situation in their home communes, which, in some cases, would directly influence decisions as to whether to return. The leaders in the IDP camps and Ministers and Prefects visiting the camps regularly informed the camp population that there were human rights field officers available and that they would visit the home communes. In many cases, the fact that the human rights field officers carried out these visits contributed to the creation of a secure environment.

Many refugees and IDPs have raised questions concerning the administration of justice and the situation in prisons. These are problems that the HRFOR continues to address comprehensively. However, progress remains slow for various reasons outside of the HRFOR's control. On his most recent visit to Rwanda, the High Commissioner for Human Rights addressed the issue during meetings with high level officials. Pursuant to these negotiations, plans have been made to hold a conference designed to identify the means by which the cycle of impunity in Rwanda can be brought to an end and the administration of justice restored. Contributions to this conference will be made from representatives of the governments of Argentina, Ethiopia and Chile where innovative measures were taken to rehabilitate their respective justice systems in the aftermath of a similar breakdown in law and order.

What kinds of reports and assessments are being sent to Kigali? From Kigali to Geneva?

The reporting structure at the HRFOR is in the midst of a major transition. The system established in September and October 1994 was as follows. Each Field Team Leader would prepare a summary of the reports from human rights field officers. These team reports, sometimes with an individual report attached as an appendix, would be sent to the HRFOR in Kigali. Throughout the week, this Desk Officer would prepare a weekly overview of the situation. This "sitrep" was then given to the Chief of the Operation. The Chief would then finalize a synthesis which would be sent to Geneva. Special reports were prepared for the Special Rapporteur and, during its existence, for the Commission of Experts on Rwanda.

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What are the key recommendations of the monitors themselves for improving the programme?

Human rights field officers are encouraged to include in their daily and weekly reports recommendations to the Chief of the Operation. Some of these recommendations have included the possibility of augmenting the number of officers in the field and intensifying the monitoring work. Others have made suggestions concerning investigations of genocide and concerning technical cooperation and human rights education. Since the beginning of the Operation, there have been bi-weekly Team Leaders' meetings in which all recommendations are discussed and taken into consideration as the Operation is further developed and refined.

What is the current funding situation? Given the most recent voluntary contribution, how many monitors can be expected, and for how long?

As of 1 June 1995, there were 119 members of the HRFOR: 50 fixed-term staff; 35 UN Volunteers; 33 human rights field officers contributed to the HRFOR by the European Union and 1 Expert provided by the Government of Switzerland for the purpose of investigation.

To date the HRFOR has received voluntary contributions to the amount of US\$ 0,510,250.10. This, together with the UE\$ 3 million, advanced from CERF, has enabled the entry into spending commitments for the months September 1994 to end of June 1995 of US\$ 8.3 million. The remaining US\$ 1.2 million, will enable the Operation at current strength, to continue until around the end of the month of September 1995. This estimate does not include repayment of the CERF advance of US\$ 3 million.

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**Establishing a Human Rights Field Office in a Prefecture in Rwanda**

**Step 1. Introduction and Logistics:** Human Rights Field Officers arrive in a prefecture. They vary in number between 4 - 12 people and have a designated team leader. They stay for the first few days in any accommodation available (monastery, hotel, at the premises of an NGO or in a tent) while they begin to look for a suitable living and office space. At the same time, they make courtesy calls on all civil and military authorities at the prefectural level, announcing their presence, explaining their tasks and giving a copy of the agreement between the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Government of Rwanda. During this period the team will also learn about the existence of potential problems and the functioning institutions in the prefecture (prisons, hospital, court buildings, army camps, etc...).

**Step 2. Interpreters and Division of Labour:** Once accommodation has been located and a workable and secure office space established, the team will begin looking for interpreters. This is highly sensitive and often slow process and is therefore started as quickly as possible. Interpreters must be trustworthy and professionally objective and must understand clearly what their role will be. The reliability of the interpreters must also be evaluated.

As interpreters are interviewed and evaluated. Responsibilities are divided amongst the team members. Each individual Field Officer is responsible for specific tasks such as documenting the genocide, prisons/detention centres, hospital, religious and educational institutions, displaced persons, returning refugees, liaison with local and international civil and military authorities and logistics. Human rights field officers always work in teams of two or more. Each team is made up of different nationalities and are a mix of men and women. The human rights field officers "prison team" almost always consists of one woman and one man.

**Step 3. Systematic Visits:** Once the preliminary work has been done the human rights field officers begin their tasks of visiting every commune of their prefecture. The initial visits are courtesy calls. Human rights field officers introduce themselves to the civil and military authorities, explain the mandate of the HRFOR and seek information about the commune. Such information includes how the war and the genocide were perpetrated, where the communal detention centre is located, problems with health care or food, present estimated population of the commune, availability of housing, the state of judicial system and any special concerns that authorities may bring up. Before the team leaves the commune they visit local

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establishments to speak with locals about their concerns. 13

## Step 4.

Case Work, Technical Cooperation, Genocide

Documentation, Confidence Building: Advance scheduling is not always feasible given the situation of flux in which Rwanda finds itself. Primarily, the tasks that the human rights field officers undertake include the following.

Case Work - allegations of human rights violation are communicated to human rights field officers. These allegations are followed up and substantiated where possible. Once this has been done, a succinct report is drafted concerning the incidents. At this point a response is identified to address the situation and action is taken either at a local or national level.

Technical Cooperation - In every prefecture, the needs of civil judicial authorities are documented. These needs are incorporated into a global project for assistance which the High Commissioner submits to donor organizations. Needs are assessed in terms of their urgency. Technical Cooperation also includes human rights education. Human rights field officers coordinate human rights seminars with local NGOs and with governmental authorities addressed at different individuals and institutions. The goal of these programmes is to facilitate local human rights training.

Genocide Documentation - An ongoing duty of all human rights field officers has been to identify massacre sites, mass graves and to document the genocide that took place in Rwanda between April and August 1994. On 8 November 1994, the Security Council established an International Tribunal and appointed Justice Richard Goldstone as the Prosecutor for this Tribunal. Human rights field officers continue to document acts of genocide but they are not in a position to carry out criminal prosecutions, which must be left to the competent authorities.

Confidence Building - human rights field officers work creatively to find ways to facilitate the process of building confidence among Rwandese citizens. Human rights field officers attempt to foster communication between different institutions where it may be lacking. The HRFOR also assists the return of displaced persons and refugees to their homes.

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